

**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**

**South Community Assembly**

**Meeting held 4 October 2012**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Cate McDonald (Chair), Ian Auckland, Nikki Bond, Simon Clement-Jones, Anders Hanson, Qurban Hussain, Steve Jones, Roy Munn, Denise Reaney, Tim Rippon and Clive Skelton

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**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE FROM MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY**

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bob McCann.

**2. FRANK TAYLOR**

2.1 The Chair referred to the recent death of former Councillor Frank Taylor, who was a Member of the Community Assembly during the Municipal Years 2010/11 and 2011/12.

2.2 RESOLVED: That the sincere condolences of the Community Assembly be conveyed to Frank Taylor's family.

**3. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

3.1. No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4.1 There were no declarations of interest.

**5. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

5.1 The Community Assembly approved, as a correct record, the minutes of its meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2012 and, arising therefrom:-

(a) the Community Assembly Manager reported that responses to questions raised at the last meeting were included on the Questions Log, which had been circulated at this meeting and, in addition to the response relating to the pavilion in Greenhill Park, he added that officers were meeting with the Friends of Greenhill Park the following week, to discuss future options; and

(b) Councillor Nikki Bond reported that (i) following the decision to retain the No.4 bus service, TM Travel had won the tender to operate the service and a new timetable was due out on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2012

and (ii) a meeting had been held with relevant partner organisations on 21<sup>st</sup> September, 2012, to discuss the issues of anti-social behaviour within the Abbeydale area and a further meeting had been planned on 2<sup>nd</sup> October to look at how the issues can be tackled using existing resources.

## **6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

### **6.1 Petition**

The Community Assembly received a petition submitted by Richard Shaw, containing 36 signatures, requesting the reinstatement of street lighting on the steps between Nicholson Road and Shirebrook Road.

RESOLVED: That:-

- (a) the receipt of the petition now reported be noted; and
- (b) the petition be referred to Amey, with a request that they visit the site and consider reinstating the street lighting.

### **6.2 Public Questions**

Members of the public asked questions and responses were provided as follows:-

- (a) Chris Venables questioned:-
  - (i) what the Community Assembly was doing to ensure that Amey did not charge other voluntary community organisations impossibly high amounts as part of the road closure/diversion process for community events, such as the Nether Edge Markets.

The Chair stated that the Community Assembly had been very supportive of such events in the past, and had requested that any costs in terms of providing road signs for any road closures or diversions be kept to a minimum. The Community Assembly would not have any direct influence in terms of how much Amey could charge, but would request them to keep such charges to a minimum.

- (ii) what the Council could do to ensure that the Nether Edge Post Office facility remains accessible for all within the heart of the Nether Edge Shopping Centre.

Councillor Nikki Bond stated that she had spoken to the Post Office Network Manager on this issue, who appreciated the local concerns and the need to retain such a facility within Nether Edge, and would hopefully be discussing the issue with the Manager again shortly. The Community Assembly Lead Director stated that whilst there had been a commitment from the Post Office that there would be no further planned closures, in this

situation, the Post Office would be dependent on an individual or business expressing an interest in running the service, and that she would pursue this issue with local Councillors. The Post Office would have to assess the impact any move to new premises would have on the existing Post Office network. The Lead Director also agreed to contact the Post Office to clarify if the service would be restricted if a small local business was to house the facilities in their premises.

- (iii) what would happen to the mature trees in the City as part of the Streets Ahead Project.

Vernon Silcock, Community Assembly Amey Link Officer, stated that he had met with the Council's Tree Manager, who had informed him that the Tree Evaluation Survey would be completed by the end of November, 2012. He stated that any dead, dying or decaying trees would be dealt with on a priority basis under the Project, then Amey would follow the zonal method of dealing with the trees, in the same manner as the maintenance of the streets. Any trees posing a danger will be removed, and replaced with new trees which were more conducive to the highways streetscene. There would be a choice of trees to be planted, and local communities would be encouraged to take part in this process.

- (b) Mick Theaker questioned:-

- (i) when, following the successful trial, would the rest of Lowedges Road be truck paved and if it was not in the near future, whether it could be included as part of the Streets Ahead Project.
- (ii) whether the Council could look at implementing priority lanes on the Meadowhead roundabout, as the current layout was causing confusion and accidents.
- (iii) whether whoever was responsible could cut the hedges on the path next to the scout hut and barracks on Greenhill Main Road as they were very overgrown.

The Community Assembly Manager stated that he would forward the questions to relevant officers for a response and include such responses on the questions log at the next meeting.

- (c) Samuel Mitchell questioned what the Community Assembly's view was on the possibility of library closures.

The Chair stated that due to the significant cuts in Government funding, the Council had been forced to give careful consideration to how its budget was allocated. The Library Service was one of a number of services provided by the Council which was being reviewed in terms of its funding. A consultation process was currently taking place and any decisions on potential library closures would be taken after all results of the consultation had been carefully considered.

(d) Neil Cutts questioned whether the Community Assembly supported the proposals in the Achieving Change document, which recommends reducing the number of advice centres from 23 to three, with only one “merged” centre covering the whole of the South, South West and South East areas of the City.

The Chair stated that such proposals had not been put forward by the Council, but had been proposed in a report of the Community Legal Advice Service for South Yorkshire (CLASSY). She added that the recommendations do not reflect the service that the Community Assembly and the Council would like to see in Sheffield.

(e) Maxine Bowler stated that Heeley Advice Centre received the least amount of funding from the Council, but remained one of the busiest Advice Centres, and requested the Council considers this when reading the report of CLASSY.

(f) A resident of Blackstock Road questioned when additional trees would be planted on the former Hemsworth School site.

The Chair stated that the Council would be consulting on the future of this site very shortly, and that all residents would be kept informed of the process.

(g) Richard Shaw referred to the installation of the new play and fitness area in Meersbrook Park, in consultation with local community groups, and questioned why the Friends of Bishop House had not been consulted.

The Chair stated that this had been due to a misunderstanding and apologised for this.

## **7. SOUTH COMMUNITY ASSEMBLY DISCRETIONARY BUDGET 2012/13**

The Community Assembly Manager submitted a report on the proposed allocation of the remaining funds from the Community Assembly’s Discretionary Budget 2012/13.

### **7.1 Public Questions**

In response to a question from a member of the public relating to whether the public could contribute to the discussion on this item, the Chair stated that the issue had already been discussed at the Assembly’s partner panel and other local fora, therefore it would be the Assembly making the decision.

### **7.2 Decision Taken**

RESOLVED: That the Community Assembly:-

(a) agrees the allocation of the remaining £34,112 of the Community Assembly’s Discretionary Budget 2012/13 to the following projects:-

- Chancet Wood Playground £3,000
- Youth Shelter on Batemoor Open Space £8,000
- Bring Out Your Rubbish Days and Community Skips £5,612
- Fuel Poverty and Affordable Warmth (South Yorkshire Energy Centre/Heeley City Farm) £7,500
- Youth Service to Disengaged South Asian Girls (Roshni) £5,000
- Adult Learning Bursaries (South Adult Learning Forum) £5,000

- (b) delegates authority to the Community Assembly Manager, in consultation with the Chair of the Assembly, to (i) agree targets, outputs and outcomes for all funded activity with the identified service deliverer and ensure best value for money, (ii) vary the amount of these allocations by not more than 10% in each case, funding permitting and (iii) reallocate any further underspend in the Assembly's Discretionary Budget 2012/13 to projects that will tackle one or more priorities within the South Community Plan; and
- (c) authorises the Director of Community Services, in consultation with the Director of Legal Services, to agree the terms on which all funding referred to in this report is made available and to enter into such funding agreements with recipients of the funding and any other related agreements or arrangements, and on such terms, that she considers appropriate.

### **7.3 Reasons for the Decision**

The allocation of the remaining South Community Assembly Discretionary Budget 2012/13 will ensure activity takes place to address some of the priorities as identified in the South Community Assembly Plan, namely to:-

- Improve parks and open spaces
- Improve the streetscene
- Increase activities for children and young people
- Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour
- Promote initiatives and projects that improve cohesion in targeted areas
- Improve the health and wellbeing of older people
- Tackle inequalities in targeted neighbourhoods
- Provide increased opportunity for people to access learning, skills and employment

- Contribute to the development of the voluntary, community and faith sector.

#### **7.4 Alternatives considered and rejected**

As a result of the ongoing community consultation and Councillors' local intelligence and surgeries, a number of priorities/activities were identified for possible inclusion in the budget and consideration was given to:-

- Further improvements to other parks (e.g. Graves Park and Barbers Field)
- Development of allotment/community food growing sites
- Further funding for local food growing projects
- Tree planting initiatives
- Contribution to refurbishment (security shutters) of 191 Blackstock Road (which will host a Social Prescribing service and other community based services)
- Development of a Community Health Trainer service
- An Exercise Intervention Project at the Sloan Practice

One or more of the following factors have meant that all these alternative options have not been put forward as recommendations:-

- Unable to be delivered in the time frame (by March 2013)
- Previously received funding from the Community Assembly
- Could potentially be resourced from other funding
- Do not provide value for money

### **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 8.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Assembly would be held on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2013, from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., at a venue in the Gleadless Valley Ward.